From: Colin Wier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:55pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

As a college student, I have a real problem with the deal that was crafted by the DOJ in regards to Microsoft. In the case of my generation, we have a growing number of concerns with computers in general. First and foremost, there is the recent labeling of any sort of computer infractions as a terrorist act. But that is another topic altogether.

In regards to Microsoft, this company in my mind, has completely overstepped its bounds. After being proven a monopoly they are escaping with what seems to be a complete slap on the wrist. When AT&T was considered a monopoly it was split up into tiny units, each independent of the other. Same with Standard Oil.

For years I have been a user of Microsoft Windows OS's. Every time I find more problems. However, due to their market position, I am unable to use tools that I need because of the way that Microsoft has created their software. If I am trying to install a program that I had used before on my Win98 machine, then install the same on Win2000, in my experience it fails about 80% of the time. This forces me to replace my perfectly good program with a brand new expensive one. This tool that I use to program C++ is also made by Microsoft. I eventually threw both of these away. Now I am running a Linux computer because of the problems that I have been having.

That is just one example, but I am sure that you know of many more. My only concern in the capacity that I am a student engineer (and very poor) is that I can not afford to pay the inflated prices for software that breaks down on a daily basis, has introduced a number of security issues to my computer, and also fails to work with previous versions. I have trouble affording bills, and I have precious little patience and faith with companies whose bottom line are more money than I can imagine.

I ramble on, but please, please, please incorporate stiffer punishment than the current proposed system. Also, allow code to be looked at on a individual basis. Open source will, no matter what any Redmond sponsored scientist says, allow a person to fix their own on a more expedient basis and tie up security holes faster than the patches given out two months or more after they are found.

Sincerely:
        A concerned US citizen